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Kernan Names Beumer Head of Region Eight; Ball State University Selected for Commerce Office in Muncie

MUNCIE — Continuing his efforts to modernize the Indiana Department of Commerce, today Lt. Governor Joe Kernan named Greg Beumer director of the agency's Region Eight and selected Ball State University as the home of the region's office.

Encompassing Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Jay, Randolph and Wayne counties, the Region Eight office will serve as a "one-stop shop" for the state's economic development activities.

"We are thrilled to announce the Greg Beumer and Ball State University team," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "Greg's experience and knowledge of the region combined with Ball State's resources will make for a great partnership that will benefit everyone involved."

"This regional approach is a bold change to the way we attract and keep quality businesses," the lieutenant governor added. "It is arguably the biggest undertaking in the agency's history, and we're confident that it will pay off with more good jobs for Hoosiers."

A native of Jay County, Beumer currently works as a grant writer and administrator for Beumer & Associates in Modoc and is completing his final term as a Randolph County Commissioner. Beumer has also worked as the executive director of the Randolph County Community & Economic Development Foundation, where he developed an existing industry and business database and implemented internal management controls. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute, Beumer is a member of the Association of Indiana Counties, the Indiana Association of County Commissioners, and the St. Vincent – Randolph Hospital Board of Trustees.

"After interviewing Greg, we knew immediately that we had found our regional director," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "His experience serving the area's cities and towns, along with his community relations expertise, will benefit the entire region and we are excited to have him on the team."

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As regional director, Beumer will act as Commerce's representative in the field and will be responsible for the overall management of the regional office and delivery of agency services. In addition, Beumer will develop and maintain partnerships with regional business and community organizations and their leaders, collaborate with regional governments and local organizations on economic development projects, evaluate regional development needs and formulate a regional strategic plan, as well as educate the public on Commerce programs and services.

"I look forward to serving Region Eight, the lieutenant governor and the Indiana Department of Commerce, and I want to express my appreciation for this opportunity," said Beumer. "It's thrilling for me to have a chance to partner with so many strong people and organizations that are all working toward a common goal – making Indiana better. I can't wait to get started."

Hosted by BSU, the new Commerce office will be located on campus in Carmichael Hall. It is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

"In this state, we are fortunate to have an outstanding network of higher education institutions that are willing to partner with us in our efforts," said Kernan. "Having a regional office at BSU makes a lot of sense – it gives us a chance to work with a quality institution that shares our goal of improving the lives of Hoosiers. We couldn't be more pleased with this location and with the opportunity to work with the BSU community."

Lt. Governor Kernan announced plans to modernize the Department of Commerce in July after more than a year and a half of research. Since October 1, Kernan has appointed regional directors in Bloomington (Region Ten), Kokomo (Region Four), Terre Haute (Region Six), Madison (Region Nine), South Bend (Region Two), Gary (Region One), New Albany (Region Twelve), and in Evansville (Region Eleven). Later today Kernan will be in Fort Wayne (Region Three) to name the director and office location there.

For more information on the Indiana Department of Commerce, the new regional offices or its programs, contact Jeff Harris, media relations director, at 317.232.2464 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com

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